



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Dunn Lampton Southern District of Mississippi

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LOUISIANA MAN PLEADS GUILTY FOR FEMA HOTEL ASSISTANCE FRAUD

JACKSON, Miss. – Derrick Shane Miller of New Orleans pleaded guilty to one count of mail fraud in connection with a scheme to defraud the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in its Hotel Assistance program, U.S. Attorney Dunn Lampton of the Southern District of Mississippi and Special Agent in Charge John Raucci of the FBI announced today. Miller admitted using his FEMA registration number to obtain multiple hotel rooms at nine different hotels in Jackson, Miss. from Oct. 28, 2005, through March 31, 2006. As a part of his plea, Miller admitted he rented the rooms to others for cash as part of his scheme to defraud FEMA. In total, Miller defrauded FEMA of \$27,811.

Miller was indicted on June 6, 2006, as a result of a joint investigation conducted by the FBI and Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics with assistance provided by the Hinds County Sheriff's Office. Miller was taken into custody by the FBI in New Orleans on June 8, 2006. Miller faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

"The Katrina Fraud Task Force is an unprecedented law enforcement effort which is aggressively pursuing all complaints of fraud in the wake of Katrina," U.S. Attorney Lampton said. "This case represents another example of the cooperative law enforcement effort in place to detect and apprehend those who have committed fraud. If you commit fraud and are caught, you will be prosecuted."

In September 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division includes members from the FBI, the Federal Trade Commission, the U.S. Postal Inspector's Office and the Executive Office of United States Attorneys, among others.

Pursuant to the Justice Department initiative, a local Katrina Fraud Task Force, consisting of over 20 federal and state law enforcement agencies, was formed in the Southern District of Mississippi to pursue and prosecute individuals who file false and fraudulent claims.

If anyone has information concerning possible fraud being committed during the post-Katrina recovery effort, please call either the DHS-OIG Fraud Hotline at 1-866-720-5721 or the FBI Fraud Hotline at 1-800-225-5324.

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